

REMARKS

Claims 25-28 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 25-28 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the Fletcher, et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 7,010,681). Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 25, 27 and 28 and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 25, 27 and 28 have been amended to better recite applicant's invention. In particular, looking at amended independent claim 25, this claim now clearly recites the features of the present invention that if image data is confidential and a transmission path to a destination of the image data is not secure, the image data is stored in a storage area corresponding to the destination (e.g., a memory box of a receiver) and a message which indicates that the image data have been stored in such a storage area is transmitted to the destination of the image data. That is, amended claim 25 clearly recites a communication apparatus for transferring image data from a first network to a second network, said apparatus comprising: a first discrimination unit configured to discriminate if the received image data is confidential or not; a judgment unit configured to judge if the transfer path to the destination of the received image data is secure or not, when the result of the discrimination by said first discrimination unit indicates the received image data is confidential; a storage control unit configured to control to store the received image data in storage area corresponding to the destination of the received image data, when the result of the judgment by said judgment unit indicates the transfer path is not secure; and a transmission unit configured to transmit a message that the received image data is stored in said storage area, to the destination of the received image

data. Applicant's independent claims 27 and 28 have been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 25, 27 and 28 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. The Fletcher, et al. patent discloses in FIG. 3 a document browsing system via which a user views document data stored in a database. Specifically, this system is arranged to judge whether the user is permitted to view a desired document data or not, on the basis of the security levels of the user and the author of the document data. If the system does not permit the user to view the document data at all, the system sends a message indicating such a situation to the user (e.g., column 4, lines 62-65) and then terminates the processing (e.g., column 4, lines 62-65). If the user is permitted to view at least part of the document data, the system stores the user's security information into a cache 150 of the system. (e.g., column 4 lines 65-67).

In the Office Action, the Examiner attempts to apply the aforesaid processes in the system of the Fletcher, et al patent to applicant's claimed invention. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner that these processes can be applied to applicant's claims. In particular, the Examiner first points to lines 43-55 of column 3 of the Fletcher, et al. patent as describing applicant's first discrimination unit. These lines basically teach that "a client sends credentials to a server, which sends authorized parts of a document to the client." Thus, the received data in the Fletcher, et al. patent is the client's credentials. However, there is no determination as to whether the client's credentials are confidential or not. The only determination is whether the credentials support sending documents or parts thereof to the client. As a result, there is no teaching or suggestion in the patent to discriminate whether received image data is confidential or not.

The Examiner further points to the description in column 5, line 43 through column 6,

line 40 of the Fletcher, et al. patent as teaching applicant's judgment unit. These lines merely describe the operation of the "librarian" of the system which determines the encryption protocols for transmitting the information in the requested documents and which protocols the client supports. Once the protocols are determined the "librarian" parses a document to remove those parts the client is not permitted to receive. There, therefore, is no judging of whether a transfer path to the destination of the received image data is secure or not. Instead, as previously stated, all that is judged is what encryption protocols a client supports and what parts of a document should be parsed.

Additionally, the Examiner points to the description at column 4, line 58 to column 5, line 6, of the Fletcher, et al. patent as teaching applicant's claimed storage unit. Again, these lines discuss the "librarian" of the system and state that the "librarian" has a generic cache and that the "cache can store document headers, personnel information and security information, replacing entries using a Least Recently Used policy." They also mention that that if "the requestor is authorized to view at least a part of the document, his authorization level is cached by the librarian for later use."

These lines, however, fail to teach or suggest that storing occurs in the cache when there has been a judgment that a transfer path has been found to be not secure. Instead, all that is mentioned is that a requestor's authorization level is stored, when the requestor is authorized to view at least part of a document. Moreover, there is nothing taught or suggested that the cache is controlled to store received image data in an area corresponding to the destination of the received image data. As above-noted, the cache stores document headers, personnel information and security information, not received image data in an area corresponding to the destination of the

received image data.

Finally, the Examiner argues that the discussion in the Fletcher, et al. patent at column 5, line 43 to column 6, line 40, teaches applicant's claimed transmission unit. These passages of the patent are discussed above and it is evident that they do not teach or suggest transmitting a message to the destination of the received image data that the received image data is stored in a the storage area of a storing unit corresponding to the received image data.

In summary, it is believed that the Fletcher, et al. patent fails to teach or suggest the first discrimination unit, judgment unit, storage control unit and transmission unit of applicant's amended claim 25, and its respective dependent claims. These claims as well as independent method claim 27 and independent storage medium claim 28, which recite like features, thus patentably distinguish over the Fletcher, et al. patent.

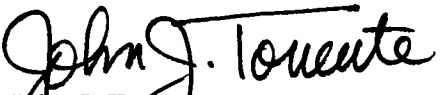
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant further notes that applicant has filed concurrently herewith a Request for Telephone Interview requesting that the Examiner permit applicant's undersigned attorney to conduct a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss this Amendment and the subject application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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